

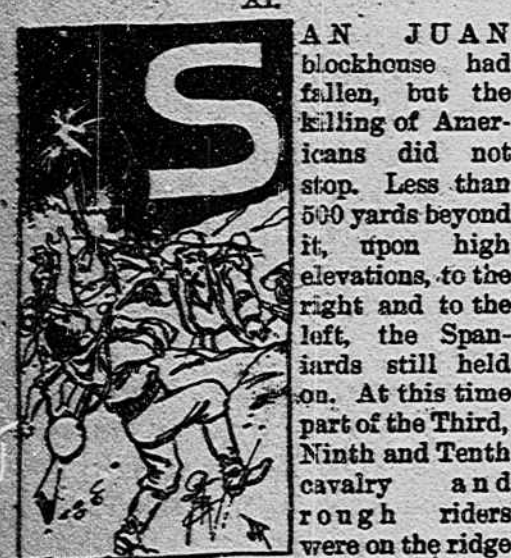
BULLETS SANG "DEATH"

Though San Juan Fort Had Fallen, the Battle Went On.

"HERE WE ARE! HERE WE STAY!"

Now the Victors Faced Spanish Reserves—Short Range For the Cavalry on San Juan Crest—Pearson's Infantry Carried the Line Forward Beyond All Others.

[Copyright, 1889, by the Author.]



SAN JUAN blockhouse had fallen, but the killing of Americans did not stop. Less than 500 yards beyond it, upon high elevations, to the right and to the left, the Spaniards still held on. At this time part of the Third, Ninth and Tenth cavalry and rough riders were on the ridge due north of the blockhouse, where there was a house with outbuildings and trenches, all used by the Spaniards for cover. The cavalrymen say that sometime after they reached this point, which was known to them as San Juan House, they heard heavy firing at the blockhouse. This led them to suppose that the blockhouse had not yet fallen when they reached the crest of the ridge. However, the infantry said that they fired from the captured blockhouse and vicinity upon the retreating Spaniards and at their second line. Many gallant fellows of Wikoff's and Hawkins' brigades fell after the blockhouse was in the possession of the Americans. Among these was Lieutenant Ord of Hawkins' staff, who broke away from his leader in order to go in with the men of his own regiment, the Sixteenth. Ord's conduct that day was heroic, his death most tragic. When the brigade was at the creek, deploying for the attack, he had said by way of encouragement, "You can take it in 30 minutes." Major Forde of the First cavalry, who went forward with his battalion after the capture of "Kettle" hill, was also killed.

The infantry reformed lines at the blockhouse and took position to resist a counter attack, which a little later was threatened from the Spaniards in front. The blockhouse was a brick building, loopholed, with trenches on each flank and in front. West of it, toward Santiago, the ground falls into a deep depression. Six hundred yards westward, on both sides of the main road to Santiago, the Spanish had strong works. On the American right and left of this depression the heights are abrupt, and possession of these was essential to the holding of the blockhouse as well as of "Kettle" hill, because the heights on the American right of the blockhouse itself are higher than "Kettle" hill.

As soon as the cavalry took possession of "Kettle" hill, as already described, many of the soldiers had rushed forward to the west crest and opened with their carbines upon the Spaniards around the heights in front. Majors and captains got their battalions and troops together and with a cheer charged forward. Two troops of the Third cavalry, led by Major Wessels, Captains Morton, Hunter and Morgan, dashed straight for the building known as the San Juan House. The Ninth and Tenth cavalry, with part of the rough riders, seemed to strike for the house, but owing to obstructions the line became mixed. On this charge there were some casualties. Captain Bigelow and Lieutenant Roberts of the Tenth were wounded in charging down from "Kettle" hill into the swale, and Captain McCoy was wounded in ascending the ridge. Captain O'Neil, of the rough riders, was killed. Soon after reaching the house Major Wessels and Captain Hunter of the Third were hit. The fall of Major Wessels left the command of the regiment in the hands of Captain Morton. Troops I and B, under Boughton and Dugan, coming up from San Juan blockhouse, joined, and Morton pushed forward 265 yards to the crest of the ridge. The Ninth and part of the rough riders were off to the right of that point, and Captain Galbraith, with Lieutenant Berkeley and two troops of the First cavalry, was also there.

The Sixth cavalry had kept in touch with the infantry all the way up the hill to San Juan blockhouse, and, reaching the crest, was on the left of the Tenth. Thus the cavalry had a strong line upon the highest part of the ridge extending from the Santiago road northward toward the El Caney road, ready to form connection with Lawton's left, according to plan. These troops immediately began intrenching, some using tin plates and fingers, and others, especially the Tenth cavalry, tools brought along on their backs. The right of the line was under fire from a blockhouse off toward the El Caney road. Parker took his guns up the hill, and, under the direction of cavalry officers, used them with good effect. It was believed at the time that the Spaniards were ready for a counter attack. The Ninth cavalry on the right of the line, being only one battalion strong, asked for help from the infantry, and finally Kent sent to its assistance some of the blockhouse victors—namely, the Thirteenth infantry.

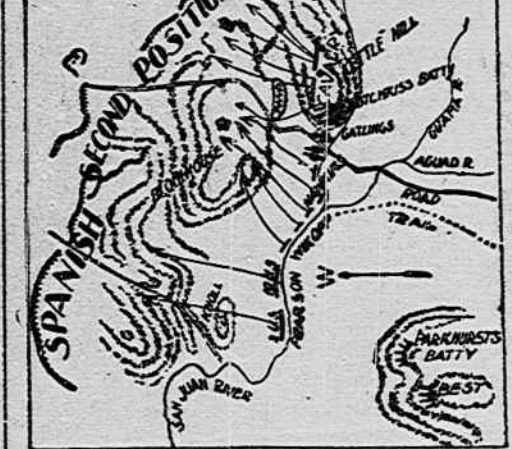
As San Juan blockhouse was situated on the crest of the ridge no advance was made by Wikoff's and Hawkins' troops. They intrenched the line from the San Juan road, the Sixth cavalry position, southward, using for this work the Krag-Jorgensen bayonet, which is simply a very heavy knife with a blade about an inch and a half wide. Hawkins' brigade, which had lost the heaviest of any in climbing the hill and was also weakened by the defection of some hundreds of volunteers, had been

strengthened early in the day by the Twenty-first infantry from Pearson's Second brigade. This regiment had been detached by General Kent to assist Hawkins, but owing to the crowded road had not got into position in time to charge with the Sixth and Sixteenth. However, it lost under the fire at the creek and also in ascending the hill close upon the heels of the other regiments.

Meanwhile what of the crest south-west of the blockhouse, the region which seems to have been most easy for attack by the Spaniards? Kent's Second brigade, under Pearson, as before stated, had orders to rest its left upon a green knoll on the same ridge with a blockhouse 600 yards south. With that Pearson's orders stopped. When this brigade, consisting of the Second and Tenth, crossed the creek, the fire had somewhat abated. Still the battle was roaring on the right and men were dropping all around. Wikoff was lying dead in the bed of the stream. In order to advance it was necessary to break the line into columns of fours. The water was two to three feet deep and the banks lined with thick brush. Entering the field, the column was struck by a heavy fire, but it swept on, passing San Juan blockhouse on the left of Wikoff's and Hawkins' troops, driving the Spaniards from hill to hill to their trenches over the crest. Taking position on the crest at a distance varying from 400 to 1,000 yards from the advanced Spanish trenches and batteries, the brigade held out against a terrible fire. The men lay down under the shelter of the crest and fired steadily, not having time to intrench.

The experience of Pearson is an example of the complications that may impel a subordinate to anticipate his chief. After the brigade had established itself on the front line, to the left of the captured blockhouse, one of Kent's aids came up with an order to Pearson to make the very move he had already carried out. During the day Kent had modified his original orders to Pearson.

It is of course impossible to depict the condition of the troops in the line when night closed in. Words fail to express it. The heat was awful; the men were soaked through and through; they had had no food since morning and no prepared meal then and had none that night, excepting in a few cases where packs were brought up from the bed of the creek on the shoulders of already worn-out soldiers. The ground was very hard, being composed in some places of calcareous rock. There was no grum-



SAN JUAN BATTLEFIELD.

bling, no depression of spirits, only determination to hold on, and a wish for support, although, while they did not know it, there was none to give them. All the infantry and cavalry were on the front line and the only help to be looked for was the coming of Lawton down the El Caney road to threaten the Spaniards on the unprotected side of Santiago.

Lawton moved up, it's true, but not until after midnight and then unseen by the Spaniards, until he reached their pickets, about 600 yards from the right of the cavalry line on the crest, as before stated. There he halted, and sent back to Shafter for renewal of orders. Calls for support for the troops intrenched on the San Juan ridge had, of course, reached Shafter at various times during the afternoon and evening of the 1st, and he told Lawton that as things stood the quickest way to get in position in aid of Wheeler's line was to counter-march to the crossroads southwest of El Caney and come back to El Poso, thence to San Juan ridge.

Nothing definite has yet been made known as to the strength of the Spaniards on San Juan ridge. The garrison of Santiago is placed at 10,000 before the much talked of Pando's column reached there. It would have been possible to have sent half the garrison or more from the main trenches to San Juan ridge after it was apparent that the Americans were to attack there in force. Why it was not done only the Spanish generals can explain. A French officer in the Spanish service told one of his countrymen in the Third cavalry that the Spaniards were amazed at the persistency of the Americans in pushing forward against San Juan ridge in the face of the pitiless fire which was poured at them at the crossing and while ascending the slopes. He also said that when the Spanish troops were driven over the crest of the ridge the men in their second line had to hold their fire for fear of killing friends, and that that resulted in demoralizing them quite as much as those driven out of the front trenches were demoralized by being compelled to beat a retreat; hence there could be no attempt at a counter charge, just at the time when it would be more effective—that is, at the very moment of American success. It is well known to fighting men that the very moment of success and high exultation is the most dangerous for the assaulting column. Strength is exhausted in the effort to take a position, but once the victors have time to get breath and come to a full realization that the position is theirs they will die in their tracks before giving it up. Every moment that the Spaniards delayed counter attack on San Juan ridge made the Americans so much stronger.

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TIME TABLE, NO. 15.

In effect 12 01 a. m., Sunday, Oct. 2, 1889.

STANDARD EASTERN TIME!

	Daily Except Sunday.	Daily Sunday.
Going East.	No 78	No 74
Lv Marion	8 10 am	2 00 pm
Lv Rutherfordton	9 05 am	3 30 pm
Lv Forest City	9 21 am	4 00 pm
Lv Henrietta	9 38 am	4 23 pm
Lv Mooresboro	9 48 am	4 52 pm
Lv Shelby	10 15 am	6 30 pm
Lv Patterson Springs	10 25 am	6 45 pm
Lv Earls	10 30 am	7 00 pm
Ar Blacksburg	10 45 am	7 25 pm
Lv Gaffney	6 40 am	5 40 pm
Ar Blacksburg	7 30 am	6 30 pm
Lv Blacksburg	10 45 am	6 00 am
Lv Smyrna	11 10 am	6 30 am
Lv Hickory Grove	11 22 am	6 50 am
Lv Sharon	11 37 am	7 15 am
Lv Yorkville	11 52 am	7 50 am
Lv Tirasah	12 05 pm	8 15 am
Lv Newport	12 10 pm	8 25 am
Lv Rock Hill	12 25 pm	9 50 am
Lv Leslies	12 40 pm	10 20 am
Lv Catawba Junction	12 50 pm	11 20 am
Lv Lancaster	1 20 pm	1 20 pm
Lv Kershaw	2 15 pm	3 15 pm
Ar Camden	3 00 pm	4 30 pm
Lv Kingville	4 28 pm	
Ar Columbia	5 20 pm	
Lv Charleston	5 47 pm	
Ar Charleston	8 00 pm	

	Daily Except Sunday.	Daily Sunday.
Going West.	No 77	No 75
Lv Charleston	7 10 am	
Lv Branchville	8 57 am	
Lv Columbia	9 20 am	
Lv Kingville	10 10 am	
Lv Camden	11 40 pm	8 20 am
Lv Kershaw	12 40 pm	10 10 am
Lv Lancaster	1 20 pm	11 50 am
Lv Catawba Junction	1 50 pm	1 50 pm
Lv Leslies	2 00 pm	2 05 pm
Lv Rock Hill	2 15 pm	3 10 pm
Lv Newport	2 30 pm	3 30 pm
Lv Tirasah	2 35 pm	3 50 pm
Lv Yorkville	2 48 pm	4 40 pm
Lv Sharon	3 03 pm	5 10 pm
Lv Hickory Grove	3 18 pm	5 30 pm
Lv Smyrna	3 30 pm	5 45 pm
Lv Blacksburg	2 55 pm	6 20 pm
Lv Blacksburg	4 10 pm	5 30 am
Ar Gaffney	5 00 pm	6 20 am
Lv Earls	4 10 pm	8 00 am
Lv Patterson Springs	4 15 pm	8 10 am
Lv Shelby	4 25 pm	9 00 am
Lv Mooresboro	4 52 pm	9 48 am
Lv Henrietta	5 02 pm	10 10 am
Lv Forest City	5 19 pm	10 35 am
Lv Rutherfordton	5 24 pm	11 00 am
Ar Marion	6 30 pm	12 35 pm

Train No. 77, going west makes daylight connection at Lancaster with the L. & C. R. R., at Rock Hill with the Southern R. R. going north, at Blacksburg with the Southern R. R. going east makes connection at Marion, N. C., with the Southern R. R., at Blacksburg with Southern and at Lancaster with L. & C. R. R. Train No. 81, going east makes connection at Shelby, N. C. with the S. A. L. R. R., going east. All local freight trains will carry passengers if provided with tickets.

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TRAINS GOING SOUTH.

	No. 55	No. 35
Leave Wilmington	8 35 a. m.	
Leave Marion	6 34 a. m.	
Arrive Florence	7 15 a. m.	
Leave Florence	7 45 a. m.	3 25 p. m.
Arrive Sumter	8 57 a. m.	4 29 p. m.
Leave Sumter	8 57 a. m.	No. 52
Arrive Columbia	10 20 a. m.	11 00 a. m.

No. 52 runs through from Charleston via Central R. R., leaving Charleston 7 a. m., leaving 8 34 a. m., arriving 9 09 a. m.

TRAINS GOING NORTH.

	No. 54	No. 53
Leave Columbia	8 15 a. m.	8 15 a. m.
Arrive Sumter	8 15 a. m.	8 15 a. m.
Leave Sumter	8 15 a. m.	8 15 a. m.
Arrive Florence	9 30 a. m.	9 30 a. m.
Leave Florence	10 00 a. m.	
Leave Marion	10 40 a. m.	
Arrive Wilmington	1 25 p. m.	

*Daily. †Daily except Sunday.

No. 53 runs through to Charleston, S. C., via Central R. R., arriving Manning 5 41 p. m., leaving 6 17 p. m., Charleston 7 35 p. m.

Trains on Conway Branch leave Chadsbourn 11 53 a. m., arrive Conway 1 35 p. m., returning leave Conway 2 45 p. m., arrive Chadsbourn 5 15 p. m., leave Chadsbourn 5 30 p. m., arrive Hub 6 10 p. m., returning leave Hub 10 25 a. m., arrive Chadsbourn 11 00 a. m., Daily except Sunday.

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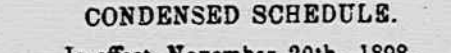
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Lv Elliott	8 45 am	
Ar Sumter	9 25 am	
Lv Sumter	4 29 am	
Ar Creston	5 17 am	
Lv Creston	5 45 am	
Ar Peggalls	6 12 am	
Ar Orangeburg	5 40 am	
Ar Denmark	6 12 am	

NORTHEBOUND.

	No. 32	No. 66
Lv Denmark	4 17 pm	
Lv Orangeburg	4 40 pm	
Lv Peggalls	10 00 am	
Ar Creston	3 50 pm	
Lv Creston	5 13 pm	
Ar Sumter	6 03 pm	
Lv Sumter	6 40 pm	
Ar Elliott	7 20 pm	
Ar Darlington	8 05 pm	

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